

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12, and add new claim 13 as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A community providing server providing a virtual community for one or more website-accessing users having one or more~~a first user who has a user terminal~~terminal connected to the community providing server via a network, the community providing server comprising:

a user management information database for storing information concerning a website-providing user, wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-accessing users~~registered users who has~~are registered with the virtual community, and wherein the stored information includes a virtual community address indicating a location~~addresses of the website-providing user within registered users in the virtual community;~~

a contents database for storing contents data constituting the virtual community; and

a control means for issuing, ~~for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website set up by a registered second user,~~ a community tag to the website-providing user, wherein the community tag causes a virtual tag community to be mounted on a website provided by the website-providing user ~~when that is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website provided by the website-providing user,~~ wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing user shows a part of a whole map

~~of the virtual community, wherein the part of the whole map corresponds is only a portion of the virtual community corresponding to the virtual community address of the website-providing second registered user.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 1 as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

the user management information database stores information concerning a website-providing user an avatar that is a character representing the website-providing user acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and

the control means performs control to show a website-accessing user the avatar that is a character representing the website-accessing user when the website-accessing user accesses acting for a fourth user in the virtual tag community, who is accessing the website provided by the website-providing user mounting the virtual tag community of the virtual community.

3. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 2 as defined in Claim 2, wherein, when the website-accessing user ~~is a fifth user who has not~~ logged into the virtual community ~~accesses the website mounting the virtual tag community,~~ the website-accessing user avatar shown by the control means ~~performs control to show a specific character that indicates that the website-accessing fifth user is not in a logged-in state in the virtual tag community.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 1 as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

the user management information database stores a web address of the website provided by the website-providing user of the third user owning the website mounting the virtual tag community among the registered users, and

the control means provides information of the web address of the website provided by the website-providing user to the website-accessing for a fourth user via the virtual tag community.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A virtual community system providing a virtual community for one or more website-accessing users a first user, the system comprising:

(a) a virtual community providing server;

(b) one or more a user terminals for use by the one or more website-accessing user terminal; and

(c) a user website server,

wherein the virtual community providing server, the one or more user terminal terminal, and the user website server are connected to each other via a network, and

wherein the community providing server comprises

i. a user management information database for storing information concerning a website-providing user, wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-

~~accessing users~~registered users who ~~has~~are registered with the virtual community,  
~~and wherein~~ the stored information includes a virtual community address indicating a  
~~location of the website-providing user within~~addresses of the registered users in the  
virtual community;

ii. a contents database for storing contents data constituting the virtual  
community; and

iii. a control means for issuing, ~~for the purpose of mounting a community tag~~  
~~to the website-providing user, wherein the community tag causes a virtual tag~~  
community to ~~be mounted~~ on a website ~~provided~~set up by ~~the website-providing~~a  
registered second user, ~~a community tag that is to be~~ when inserted in HTML data  
constituting the website ~~provided by the website-providing user, wherein the virtual~~  
tag community mounted on the website ~~provided by the website-providing user shows~~  
~~a part of a whole map is only a portion of the virtual community, wherein the part of~~  
~~the whole map corresponds~~corresponding to the ~~virtual community~~ address of the  
~~website-providing~~second registered user, and wherein

the user website server comprises

i. storage for saving HTML data into which the community tag is inserted.

8. (Currently Amended) A virtual community providing method for providing a  
virtual community for ~~one or more website-accessing users having one or more~~a first user  
~~who has a user terminal~~terminal connected to a community providing server via a network,  
the method comprising the steps of:

(a) issuing a community tag, by the community providing server, to a website-providing user, wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-accessing users who accesses the community providing server and registers with the virtual community in order to mount a virtual tag community on a website provided set up by the website-providing a registered third user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing user shows a part of a whole map is only a portion of the virtual community, wherein the part of the whole map corresponds to a virtual community corresponding to the address of the website-providing a third registered user; and

(b) sending data including contents of the virtual community, by the community providing server, to the user terminal of the website-accessing user when the user terminal of the website-accessing user that accesses the website of the website-providing registered third user and, thereafter, that also accesses the community providing server in correspondence to content of after analyzing the virtual community tag.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 1 as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

there are a plurality of website-providing users,

the user management information database stores information concerning avatars that are respectively characters representing the website-providing users an avatar that is a character acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and

the control means performs control to show a first avatar representing a first one of the website-providing users when the first website-providing user accesses the avatar acting for a user in the virtual tag community who is accessing the website provided by a second one of the website-providing users mounting the virtual tag community.

11. (Currently Amended) TheA virtual community system according to claim 7, wherein

there are a plurality of website-accessing users and a plurality of user terminals;

a first one of the website-accessing users uses the user terminal is a first one of the user terminal terminal used by the first user to access the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing used by the registered second user; and

the website-providing the virtual community system further comprises at least one second user terminal connected to the virtual community providing server, the first user terminal and the user website server via the network, wherein the registered second user uses the second one of the user terminal terminal to access the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing used by the registered second user.

12. (Currently Amended) TheA virtual community system according to claim 11, wherein the first website-accessing user accesses the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided used by the website-providing registered second user without having to visit access another website to use content of the virtual community.